

Manage

While many different techniques will be used to manage the grasslands, grazing will be one important conservation management tool. Guidelines are being developed for managing grazing to control invasive grasses while not adversely affecting water quality or the condition of the creek.

Public Outreach

We will be working with neighbors of the preserve and the community of Ramona to discuss ways they too can contribute to the fulfillment of the important goals of this project. If you would like more information on how you can participate in efforts to protect and restore the water quality and the Ramona Grasslands Preserve, please call **(858) 694-3044**.



The Ramona Grasslands & Santa Maria Creek

PROTECTION & RESTORATION PROJECT





The County of San Diego, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Research Institute are partners in a project to protect the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Ramona Grasslands and to improve water quality in the Santa Maria Creek that flows through this area.

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation received a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce the input of pollutants into the creek, and improve the ability of the creek to filter naturally waters that flow into the Lake Hodges drinking water reservoir.



Conserve

Conserving key lands that buffer the creek is a critical first step in the project. In 2003, The Nature Conservancy purchased the 417-acre Cagney Ranch. The ranch will become part of the County's network of open space preserves and the partners continue to work on acquiring land from willing sellers.

Monitor

The development of a biological management and monitoring plan for the **Ramona Grasslands Preserve** has already begun. The plan aims to enhance the habitat of many rare plants and animals that reside in the grasslands - along with the familiar open landscape that is so integral to Ramona's rural tradition.

Restore

Many partners will be working to restore the natural vegetation of the creek corridor, surrounding grasslands, and vernal pools. This team will be working to reduce invasive weeds from the creek that threaten its biodiversity as well as its water quality enhancing functions.



Photo credits: Richard Herrmann for The Nature Conservancy

